

REMARKS

In response to the communication of March 15, 2004, it is respectfully submitted that some differences in newly added independent claims 19 and 21 should have been apparent based on the response as filed.

In the prior response, it was explained that the cited reference does not "operate in the same manner as the preferred embodiments of the present invention (see certain claims)." The response later explains that "claims 19-25 recite additional combinations of features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references."

Claim 19

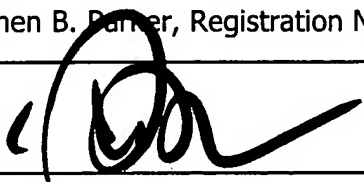
As indicated, among other things, claim 19 defines some elements using means-plus-function language. See, e.g., the entire last paragraph of claim 19. It should be understood that the means-plus-function language cited in claim 19 relates to aspects of the **operation** of the adapter halves - which operation, as should be apparent, is very different and not suggested from that of the cited references.

Claim 20

Similarly, claim 21 is a method claim that sets forth novel aspects of the **operation** (e.g., movement) of the adapter halves. See, e.g., paragraphs b) and c) of the claim. It should be understood that the **operation** (e.g., movement) of the adapter halves set forth in claim 21 is very different and not suggested from that of the cited references.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

| RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, | | | | | |
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